



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 7, 2005
Immediate Release

Contact: Michael A. Taylor, NMED Radon Program
Phone: (505) 827-1093
Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department Offers Free Home Radon Tests to Help Battle Nation's Second Leading Cause of Lung Cancer

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is honoring National Indoor Radon Awareness Month this January with a month-long campaign offering free radon tests, while supplies last.

The purpose of this campaign is to draw attention to a serious public health issue and to help New Mexicans take action to protect themselves and their families from radon's adverse health effects. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has reported that indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. The NAS has also found that radon exposure causes between 15,000 and 22,000 lung cancer deaths each year or up to 60 deaths per day.

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that exists in most soils and is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor environments, but can be harmful when trapped in buildings. Prolonged exposure to indoor radon at elevated concentrations can cause lung cancer.

Any home can have a radon problem. The only way to know if a home has a radon problem is to test it. Testing a home for radon is easy; and homes with high radon levels can be fixed at a cost similar to many routine home repairs. Free radon test kits can be obtained by contacting Michael A Taylor, NMED Indoor Radon Outreach Coordinator at (505) 827-1093 or via e-mail at michael_taylor@nmenv.state.nm.us.

NMED urges residents to take action during this year's "New Mexico Radon Action Month" by testing their homes for radon. It is a serious public health hazard with a straightforward solution.

For more information please contact Michael Taylor, NMED Indoor Radon Outreach Coordinator at (505) 827-1093, or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

###